

Listing of Claims

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A propulsion system configured to move a patient support, the propulsion system comprising

a propulsion device to power movement of the patient support, the propulsion device including a pair of drive wheels and a pair of secondary wheels, and

a coupler configured to detachably couple the propulsion device to the patient support, the coupler including a first member adapted to couple the patient support at a first distance from the floor and a second member adapted to couple the patient support at a second distance from the floor that is greater than the first distance, at least one of the first member and the second member being adjustable.

9. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 8, wherein the second member is adapted to couple to a patient restraint board of the patient support and the first member is adapted to couple to a base frame of the patient support.

10. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 8, further comprising a vertically extending handle, wherein the propulsion device includes a frame and a motorized wheel coupled to the frame, and the vertically extending handle is coupled to the frame, and the second member is coupled to the vertically extending handle.

11. (Allowed) A propulsion system configured to move a patient support, the propulsion system comprising

a propulsion device adapted to contact the floor to power movement of the patient support

a coupler configured to detachably couple the propulsion device to the patient support, the coupler including a first member adapted to couple the patient support at a first distance from the floor and a second member adapted to couple the patient support at a second distance from the floor that is greater than the first distance, and

a vertically extending handle, wherein the propulsion device includes a frame and a motorized wheel coupled to the frame, and the vertically extending handle is coupled to the frame, and wherein the second member is slidably coupled to the vertically extending handle.

12. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 8, wherein the first member is hook-shaped and adapted to hook onto a bedframe of the patient support.

13. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 12, wherein the second member is hook-shaped and adapted to hook onto a patient restraint board of the patient support.

14. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 8, further comprising a frame and a plurality of wheels coupled to the frame, wherein the propulsion device is coupled to the frame and the plurality of wheels are adapted to contact the floor to permit rolling of the propulsion system from one patient support to another.

15. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 14, further comprising a handle coupled to the frame to permit pushing of the propulsion system by a user.

16. (Currently Amended) A propulsion system configured to move a patient support having a patient restraint board ~~including a perimetrical portion~~, the propulsion system comprising

a propulsion device to power movement of the patient support, the propulsion device including a pair of drive wheels and at least one secondary wheel, and

a coupler configured to couple the propulsion device to the patient support, the coupler being configured to be coupled to the ~~perimetrical portion of the~~ patient restraint board.

17. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 16, wherein the coupler is adapted to couple to a base frame of the patient support.

18. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 16, wherein the propulsion device includes a frame, a motorized wheel coupled to the frame, and a vertically extending handle, and the coupler includes a first member adapted to be coupled to the patient restraint board and the vertically extending handle.

19. (Currently Amended) The propulsion system of claim 18, wherein the vertically extending handle is configured to extend upwardly from the frame of the propulsion device ~~above the patient restraint board~~.

20. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 16, wherein the coupler is adapted to couple to a top edge of the patient restraint board.

21. (Currently Amended) A propulsion system configured to move a patient support having a bedframe and mattress supported by the bedframe, the propulsion system comprising
a propulsion device to power movement of the patient support,

a coupler configured to move between a coupled position coupling the propulsion device to the bedframe and an uncoupled position permitting movement of the propulsion device away from the bedframe, and

a ~~vertically extending handle coupled to the coupler and~~ configured to move the coupler between the coupled and uncoupled positions, the handle being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bedframe when the coupler is in the coupled position.

22. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 21, wherein the handle includes a handle portion positioned at a sufficient height above the floor to facilitate grasping of the handle portion by user to move the propulsion system about a care facility.

23. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 21, wherein the propulsion device includes a frame and a drive wheel coupled to the frame and the handle is pivotably coupled to the frame.

24. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 21, further comprising a linkage system configured to couple the handle to the coupler.

25. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 24, wherein the linkage system includes a first link pivotably coupled to the handle and a second link coupled to the coupler and pivotably coupled to the first link.

26. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 21, wherein the coupler is hook shaped.

27. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 21, wherein the coupler is ball shaped to fit within a socket of the patient support.

28. (Original) The propulsion system of claim 21, further comprising a latch configured to hold the handle in at least one of the coupling and uncoupling positions.

29. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 21, further comprising a plurality of wheels adapted to contact the floor and configured to permit a user pushing on the handle to roll the propulsion system from one patient support to another.

30. (Allowed) The propulsion system of claim 11, wherein the second member is adapted to couple to a patient restraint board of the patient support and the first member is adapted to couple to a base frame of the patient support.

31. (Allowed) The propulsion system of claim 11, wherein the first member is hook-shaped and adapted to hook onto a bedframe of the patient support.

32. (Allowed) The propulsion system of claim 31, wherein the second member is hook-shaped and adapted to hook onto a patient restraint board of the patient support.

33. (Allowed) The propulsion system of claim 11, wherein the vertically extending handle extends from the frame of the propulsion device to a height above the patient restraint board.

34. (Currently Amended) A propulsion system configured to move a patient support, the propulsion system comprising

a propulsion device to power movement of the patient support, the propulsion device including a plurality of drive wheels and at least one secondary wheel, and

a coupler configured to move between a coupled position coupling the propulsion device to the patient support and an uncoupled position permitting movement of the propulsion device away from the patient support, the coupler including a first member adapted to be coupled to the patient support and a second member adapted to be coupled to the patient support and spaced apart from the first member, the separation between the first member and the second member being adjustable.

35. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 34, wherein the first member and the second member are separated by a first distance corresponding to the coupled position of the coupler and by a second distance corresponding to the uncoupled position of the coupler.

36. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 35, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.

37. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 36, wherein the propulsion device comprises a frame and a handle extending from the frame and wherein at least one of the first member and the second member is moveably coupled to the handle of the propulsion device.

38. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 37, wherein the at least one of the first member and the second member coupled to the handle is adapted to be coupled to a patient restraint board of the patient support.

39. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 38, wherein at least one of the first member and the second member is coupled to the frame of the propulsion device and is adapted to be coupled to a bedframe of the patient support.

40. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 34, wherein at least one of the first member and the second member is adapted to be coupled to a patient restraint board of the patient support.

41. (Currently Amended) A propulsion system configured to move a patient support, the patient support including a bedframe and a patient restraint board, the bedframe being configured to be raised and lowered resulting in the patient restraint board being positioned in multiple positions including a raised position and a lowered position, the propulsion system comprising

a propulsion device to power movement of the patient support, the propulsion device including a motor, at least one drive wheel coupled to the motor, and at least one secondary wheel,
and

a coupler configured to couple the propulsion device to the patient support, the coupler being adjustable such that the coupler is configured to be coupled to the patient restraint board when the patient restraint board is the raised position and when the patient restraint board is in the lowered position.

42. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 41, wherein the propulsion device comprises a frame and a handle extending from the frame and wherein the coupler is moveably coupled to the handle of the propulsion device.

43. (Previously Presented) The propulsion system of claim 41, wherein the coupler is configured to couple to a perimetrical portion of the patient restraint board.

44. (Allowed) A method of coupling a propulsion system to a patient support, the patient support including a bedframe and a patient restraint board having a perimetrical portion, the bedframe being configured to be raised and lowered resulting in the patient restraint board being positioned in multiple positions including a raised position and a lowered position, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a propulsion system including a propulsion device to power movement of the propulsion system and a coupler configured to couple to the patient restraint board of the patient support;

positioning the coupler proximate to the perimetrical portion of the patient restraint

board; and

providing relative movement between the coupler and the patient restraint board such that the coupler and the perimetrical portion of the patient restraint board are coupled.

45. (Allowed) The method of claim 44, wherein the propulsion device includes a frame and a handle and the coupler is moveably coupled to the handle.